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CMLL DECLARES WORLD MIDDLEWEIGHT TITLE VACANT; HOLDS TOURNAMENT

Negro Casas, el Dandy advance to finals

Mexico's largest and oldest promotion, la Empresa Mexicana de la Lucha Libre (EMLL) continued to fight back against its renewed competition with yet another outstanding Friday night show from its traditional home, la Arena Mexico. In a card held Friday, June 26, 1992, at la Arena Mexico, the EMLL held a battle royal to determine two finalists for the vacated World Middleweight Championship of its wholly-owned subsidiary, el Consejo Mundial de la Lucha Libre (CMLL).

On June 12th, 1992, the EMLL/CMLL had decided formally to strip the CMLL World Middleweight Championship from its holder, The Blue Panther. The Blue Panther had won the title in a tournament final over el Satanico on Wednesday, December 18, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, and had held onto the title ever since. When The Blue Panther was introduced at the May 7, 1992, press conference held by the newly formed Asistencia, Asesoría, y Administración (AAA) as one of the EMLL/CMLL wrestlers jumping to the AAA, the status of The Blue Panther's world title came into question.

Apparently, EMLL/CMLL president Francisco "Paco" Alonso Lutherroth asked for The Blue Panther to work a short program which would end in The Blue Panther's dropping his CMLL belt to Atlantis. As the story would have gone, The Blue Panther and Atlantis were to meet in a six-man tag team match at la Arena Coliseo in Mexico City on May 15, 1992 (the same night the AAA would hold its first television taping) and a mini-feud between The Blue Panther and Atlantis would lead to a title match the following Friday (May 22, 1992), with Atlantis set to win. Well, The Blue Panther did show up on the EMLL show of May 15th, and he worked the six-man tag, but apparently The Blue Panther refused to do the job in the match and furthermore he definitely refused to continue the program any further.

The EMLL was left in a quandary as to what to do with the CMLL belt that was now in another promotion's control. They still have the same quandary with the CMLL World Heavyweight Championship, most recently held by AAA wrestler Cien Caras. How the decision was arrived at, I can't say, but a decision was made to eventually hold a tournament to crown a new champion. The timing as far as when to hold the tournament was left up in the air.

And unusual circumstances beyond Alonso's control dictated the timing in this case. Originally, the card at la Arena Mexico for Friday, June 26, 1992, was to feature the Mexico debut or re-appearance of several Japanese stars from the SWS promotion. King Haku, Gyoji Takano (under his old New Japan mask and ring name "The Cobra"), Ishinriki (to be billed as "Hirata"), Naoki Sano, Shunji Takano (to be billed as "Shunji") and possibly others were set to come in to work for EMLL. EMLL had sent several wrestlers to SWS for the SWS cards in 1991 and 1992, and did not just send its worst workers as the WWF was prone to do. In return, the SWS had sent only Yoshihiro Asai (as Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon), Masao Orihara (as Iga), Toshiyuki Nakahara (as Iga), and "Kendo Nagasaki." Other than Asai, these were hardly the SWS's best workers. Finally, the EMLL was set to reap some benefits from its long-term talent-trading contract signed (oddly enough by Antonio Pena) on September 30, 1991.

However, on May 19, 1992, all the SWS wrestlers set to tour EMLL in June except King Haku gave notice that they were to split off into their own promotion, originally to be called "Palestra" but now to be known as "NOW (Network of Wrestling)." Pursuant to its contract, only those employees remaining with the original SWS faction, now called "Revolution," would be eligible to go to Mexico. Therefore, on the June 26 card at la Arena Mexico, King Haku appeared from SWS, as did Asai, and no other Japanese came in. Alonso originally had a whole four-week run booked using the Japanese talent (I believe he particularly wanted to use Naoki and Hirata, based on past published interviews Alonso has done). Now, with his booking sheets useless, Alonso had to essentially re-book from scratch. Therefore, out of the promotional bag came the CMLL Middleweight Tournament scenario. It was formally announced in the Mexico City newspapers of Tuesday, June 25, 1992, that The Blue Panther had been stripped of his title and that a "Rouletta Rusa" (Battle Royal) would be held to whittle the tournament from sixteen entrants down to a final 2.

The battle royal was shown in its entirety on the EMLL television show "Estrellas de Lucha Libre" that aired Saturday night, June 27, 1992, on channel 9 (XEW-TV) in Mexico City, at 3:00 pm MDT. This show is available on satellite on the Mexican satellite Morelos one, on channel fourteen, at 7:00 pm EDT-9:00 pm EDT/4:00 pm PDT-6:00 pm PDT. This week's television show was two full hours long, unlike the AAA's as you will see. The battle royal was the semifinal of the card, but aired right after introductory highlights on the television show.

Seven tecnicos and nine rudos were entered into the tournament. Rather than repeat the names twice, let me go to the over-the-top-rope battle royal, and list the order of elimination. The whole battle royal lasted just under six minutes, but was said to be full of action, non-stop, and graded at ** 3/4 by Lucha Libre Weekly correspondent David Scherer of Seaville, New Jersey. Here is how it went, the order of elimination:

- 1) El Guerrero Maya (ex-Black Terry, real name Esteban Mares), went out first, not sure who tossed him over;
- 2) La Aguila Solitaria went out next;
- 3) Ponzona (ex-America Rocca, real name Javier Americo Rocca) went out next, tossed over by la Bestia Salvaje;
- 4) El Guerrero del Futuro (ex-ring name is real name Jose Luis Feliciano), tossed out by Oro;
- 5) Plata, brother of Oro and son of el Calavera II, went out next;
- 6) El Espectro de Ultratumba (ex-el Gran Cochisse) was tossed out by el Dandy;
- 7) El Espectro junior (Antonio "Tono" Hernandez junior) was then tossed out;
- 8) Oro, brother of Plata of the "el Trio Metalico" went out next, tossed over by Javier "el Monarca" Cruz;
- 9) Javier "el Monarca" Cruz (Javier Pedro Septien Veracruz) was then immediately tossed out by la Bestia Salvaje;
- 10) Kung Fu (Reymundo de la Cuesta Veloz) was thrown over jointly by el Dandy and Ringo Mendoza;
- 10) Kato Kung Lee I (Johnny Lezcano Smith) was thrown over the top by el Dandy;
- 12) Ringo Mendoza (Genaro Jacobo Gutierrez Contreras), hardly a middleweight, was then thrown out by el Dandy;

This left the best four workers in the ring: la Bestia Salvaje, el Dandy, and two names I have yet to bring up, Jose "el Negro" Casas and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon. They fought for a brief time before:

- 13) La Bestia Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carrillo Rodriguez) was eliminated by Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon;
- 14) The last man eliminated was Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), who was tossed out almost single-handedly by Jose "el Negro" Casas, though el Dandy helped a bit right at the end.

This left Casas and Dandy to settle things next week, Friday, July 3, 1992, in the main event at la Arena Mexico. At the conclusion of the battle royal, the two were still dancing around and issuing challenges. The television even went to a commercial and as they came back, the two were still jawing. It should be a classic match.

Here is what happened on the rest of the June 26th card at la Arena Mexico. By the way, all the regular Televisa announcers (Doctor Alfonso Morales, Raul Sarmiento, Andres Maronas, and Miguel Linares) EXCEPT "rudo rudissimo" Arturo Rivera called this entire EMLL show.

They opened the show with highlights of the main event from the prior Tuesday night, June 23rd, at la Arena Coliseo, in an apparent attempt (very logical of course) to help build up the Tuesday night attendance. In the main event, los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Plata, captain el Brazo de Oro, and el Brazo) defeated Nitron, Emilio Charles junior, and captain Sangre Chicana two falls to one. The first fall saw CHicana pin el Brazo de Oro after typical rudo rudeness; the second saw el Brazo de Plata pin Nitron with a diving body press from off of the top rope; and the third fall saw all three Brazos pin Nitron and Charles simultaneously. This was said to be a good match, but oddly enough Ovaciones reported the result as a draw, which is the first time I can ever remember them screwing up results (La Prensa and La Aficion do it from time to time, but with Ovaciones this is a first.)

The next match saw a matchup of tecnicas, as Vandal Drummond's fave luchadora, la Sirenita (Guadalupe Beil Pena, no relation to Antonio Pena) and Lola "Dinamita" Gonzales defeated la Super Estrella and Xochitl Hamada in two straight falls. The match was said to be good, at *** overall, but the finish of the second fall and the match looked bad. Gonzales and Sirenita were supposed to do simultaneos *topes con hilo* (dives over the top rope, not touching the top rope, splashing cross-body-block style onto their opponents). However, both Gonzales and Sirenita came up short, so short that neither connected enough to barely more than brush their opponents. In fact, both Gonzales and Sirenita looked shaken up as they rolled back into the ring, while Estrella and Hamada lay out on the floor, playing dead. The finish came off as scripted, a simultaneous count out of the ring victory by Gonzales and Sirenita, but the manner in which the finish was actually executed left a bad taste in the fans' and viewers' mouths.

The segunda of the four-match card saw a non-title match for the Trios Champions of the State of Mexico, tecnicos el Trio Metalico (Plata, Bronce, and captain Oro). They drew in the third fall with the rudo squad of los Guerreros del Espacio (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and captain Damian, el Guerrero). The inicial of the card saw a rare victory for the long-time regular opening-card pareja of Babe Richard and Master as they defeated the duo of Eclipse and el Guerrero Samurai II two falls to one.

Some late miscellaneous results I just got in the day before press time, and not in chronological order, include the results of the top two matches as the card held at the "el Deportivo Olimpico" gymnasium in Mexico City. The main event saw Jerry "el Puma" Estrada and Emilio Charles junior defeat the team of Back Magic (Norman Smiley) and el Hijo de Lizmark two falls to one via disqualification in the third fall due to the heel refereeing antics of "el Gato Montini." The semifinal saw Razama (who has gotten a lot of good press lately) and Christian Diaz over el Danes I (brother of Canek) and el Negro Peralta in three falls. One additional result from the June 9 card at la Arena Coliseo saw Rokambole, el Halcon Dorado II, and la Aguila Solitaria defeating Ponzona, Enjambre, and el Guerrero de la Muerte in three falls. The match off television on June 12 at la Arena Mexico saw Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla and el Cachorro Mendoza defeating el Bello Incognito and el Guerrero de la Muerte in three falls. The June 13th card at la Pista Arena Revolucion (where el Rayo de Jalisco junior beat el Egipcio to win the Mexican National Heavyweight Championship) also saw la Mano Negra, el Jalisco, and Super Astro defeating el Bello Incognito (who does a masked gay act a la the AAA wrestler "The Rose," el Supremo I, and el Hijo del Gladiador in three falls in the semifinal. And the top two matches at la Arena Mexico from Sunday, June 14, 1992, saw los Intocables del Ring win a non-title match over el Rayo de Jalisco junior, el Faraon, and Lizmark in three falls when Pierroth fouled Rayo in the third fall and wasn't caught and Rayo returned the favor and was. The semifinal saw Super Astro, el Hijo de Tinieblas, and Black Magic defeat el Medico Asesino junior, el Hijo del Gladiador, and el Angel Blanco junior (a new version of "la Nueva Ola Blanca") two falls to one.

Also on the EMLL, here are some main events from this past weekend's top cards around the Mexico City area:

- * The traditional Saturday night card at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City held June 27th featured the tecnico trio of King Haku, The Love Machine, and captain Atlantis booked to take on captain el Satanico, Sangre CHicana, and el Pirata Morgan.
- * The traditional Sunday evening card at la Arena Naucalpan, held June 28th, featured Ringo Mendoza, la Aguila Solitaria, and Kundra versus el Hijo del Solitario, el Archangel de la Muerte, and el Guerrero de la Muerte. Remember el Hijo del Solitario's "suspension" just applies to the Distrito Federal because it was that district's commission which "suspended" him. That suspension was the lucha libre story in this week's Custodia magazine.
- * The traditional Sunday afternoon card at la Arena Coliseo, held June 28th, featured King Haku, Ringo Mendoza, and captain Lizmark versus Nitron, Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, and captain el Pirata Morgan. Ringo could have made both this card and the one listed above it as they start ninety minutes apart and are very close by geographically.
- * The traditional Sunday afternoon card at la Arena Mexico, held June 28th, had the same match scheduled as previously announced, but the billing was changed from a CMLL World Trios Title match to a *revancha en super libre* match (meaning return revenge). CMLL World Trios Champions los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Masakre, and captain Pierroth junior) were booked to face Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, Atlantis, and captain el Dandy.
- * Now whether that bout ever came about is open to speculation (maybe I will have it in the late news on page seven) because most of these guys were also booked in other cities at the same time on the 28th. In fact, the biggest EMLL card of the day was at the famous bull ring called "la Plaza de Toros 'Monumental'" in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico's third largest city. Promoter Carlos Elizondo booked a *triangular de la muerte* as his main event, as three wrestlers risked their hair: Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense, Sangre CHicana, and Rick Patterson, the former "Policia de Los Angeles" luchador who wrestles the Monterrey circuit regularly. The referee assigned to this bout by the EMLL is heel referee "el Gato Montini" (Javier Medina) which is designed to make everyone think that Vampiro is losing his hair, but I highly doubt that. I guess Patterson will lose, though it actually would not surprise me to see CHicana lose. The semifinal on this card in Monterrey has Mil Mascaras, The Love Machine, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon facing off in a non-title match against CMLL World Trios Champions los Intocables del Ring. The tercera has a main event anywhere in Mexico as los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo, el Brazo de Plata, and captain el Brazo de Oro) square off against los Nuevos Infeinales (el Pirata Morgan, M. S. 1, and captain el Satanico). The segunda has Mexico City regulars Super Astro and Valente Fernandez teaming up with Monterrey regular Stuka (Joel Garcia) to face off versus Monterrey locals Imus (not the disk jockey from Cleveland), Blue Fish, and el Sanginario. The inicial is all locals as David The Millionaire, Mister Dollar, and el Sanguinario face off versus The Latin Lover, el Aero (in his debut match), and el Polimero Espacial (a Monterrey legend who has occasionally wrestled in Mexico City and has had nice write-ups in 1991 in both Super Luchas and Box y Lucha). One last note: Galavision ran 3 promos for EMLL wrestling this past Sunday morning. Don't believe it; for now, be assured the AAA and Antonio Pena have complete control over the Galavision lucha libre. That won't change any time soon.

UWA

Here are the very few results I have from the UWA from the past week:

* I have results from only three cards. One is an old el Toreo card that I missed a while back. On the card held June 7, 1992, the main event saw Canek, Doctor Wagner junior, and Rambo defeat Miguelito Perez junior (I know that "junior" is redundant if somebody is "...ito"), Ricky Santana, and el Gigante Warrior in three falls. The only other result I have from this card was the semifinal, which was said to be the best match of the show. There, Silver King, el Texano, and Eddy Guerrero (what a tecnico team!) defeated el Villano I, el Villano IV, and el Coloso two fall to one in an all-tecnico batte.

* The second result I have is just a main event. On Wednesday, June 24, 1992, at "el Coliseo Victorino" in Gomez Palacios, Durango, el Espanto junior (Juan Jose Solis Andrade) dropped his UWA World Welterweight Championship to el Celestial (Alvaro Menendez, ex-Blackman). The match went three falls. One thing is for sure—el Celestial is no welterweight; he is fat enough to look like a miniature Porky. This arena was supposedly the setting for a card on Wednesday, May 12, 1992, when el Espanto junior had won the UWA World Welterweight Title from el Hijo del Santo. I say supposedly because there exists serious doubt in my mind that that match ever took place. This was el Espanto junior's second and final defense of his crown. Now, el Espanto junior has jumped officially to the AAA, debuting June 27, 1992. I guess the UWA, unlike the EMLL, wanted all of its champions jumping to the AAA to drop their titles first. By the way, Jose "el Negro" Casas, who is the UWA World Middleweight Champion, jumped from the UWA to the EMLL on June 5, 1992, and has not dropped his UWA belt, nor has that title been stripped from him yet.

* The other card I have results from is the card that was used for the UWA's weekly television show. The card was taped Friday, June 19, 1992, at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in Netzahualcoyotl, Mexico. It aired at 2:30 pm local time (1:30 pm PDT/4:30 pm PDT) on Saturday, June 27, 1992, on Imevisión (channel 13 in Mexico City). It was also available on satellite Morelos One, Channels 2 or 8, at the same time. Two matches that took place on the card did not air on television. They were the inicial which had Takeda squaring off against el Gran Petroneo, and the tercera, which had a non-title match of UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) squaring off against los Tortugillos Karatekas II, III, and IV (Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Rafael). The matches that aired were:

1) The segunda, wherein one-half of "la Nueva Ola Lila," Casandro and Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, defeated the duo of el Matematico I (at age 52) and el Ninja Sasuke (aka "Masa Michinoku" in Japan). The match went three falls and was said to be a really good one, and was rated at ** 1/2 by David Scherer. The finish of the third fall saw Casandro pin el Matematico I after a missile kick (a dropkick from off of the top rope). One note of interest from Scherer: as the camera panned around the arena during this match, the relatively small arena (it seats about 3,000) was less than two-thirds full, and only the first four rows of ringside were fully occupied. Sometimes, a picture can paint a thousand words....

2) The second of the three matches on television was the semifinal at the arena. In that match, el Coloso (ex-el Drago) and el Celestial (ex-Blackman) defeated el Espanto junior and Doctor Wagner junior two falls to one. The finish of the third match saw Doctor Wagner junior foul el Celestial for the automatic disqualification. Since el Espanto junior has for sure already jumped and Doctor Wagner junior is rumored to be jumping (the Japanese magazines are reporting that he already has), that explains why these two tecnico winners, who are not nearly in the class of the rudo losers, got the victory. El Coloso is very young and green and to say that he is not in either el Espanto junior's class or Doctor Wagner junior's class is no real insult to him. El Celestial is past his prime, though. Rated at * 3/4 and said not to have been a very good match.

3) The final television match was the main event at the arena. Los Efectivos, who used to be called los Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) recovered nicely from their loss three days earlier to The Fabulous Freebirds in Charleston, South Carolina, by teaming with Enrique Vera "el Leon de Occidente" to defeat the rudo trio of el Loco Zandokan, Bull Pain (ex-Texas Hangman Rick Gantner), and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) two falls to one. I was told that four of the six luchadores in this match stunk badly, the exception being Silver King and el Texano. The Killer and Andy Barrow did all their patented running-into-each-other spots, which I find very entertaining but nobody else I know seems to. The match was rated at ** 1/4 by Scherer, who said to say that all ** 1/4 was for los Efectivos. By the way, el Texano and Silver King were the interview guests of the obnoxious Tala Menendez and at least this week the interview subjects won their television match. The television announcers for the fourth straight week were the masked pareja of Alcatraz (who's pretty good) and el Principe Valiente (who isn't). I have no idea what happened to the other announcer, Alfredo Ruiz, whom I liked.

Since I am ready to get into the UWA's big cards of the past weekend, let's start out with this week's television taping, held Friday, June 26, 1992, at the same la Arena "Neza." The main event was scheduled to be Dos Caras (returning after a long television absence), el Villano III, and Haracki "el Gran" Hamada teaming up to face the rudo

squadron of Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow). The scheduled semifinal would have a non-title match up between the current UWA World/WWA World/Universal (Japan) Intercontinental Parejas Champions los Efectivos/Cowboys (Silver King and el Texano) against their official number one challengers, The Can-Am Express I y II (Phil Lason and D. N. S. Funas, better known in America as Danny Kroffatt and Doug Furnas). I find it odd that they would be the semifinal of a television taping just two days prior to a title match that headlined the larger, more important arena at "el Toreo." The tercera on the television taping had las Panteras Rosas (los Villanos I, IV, and V) booked to face Bull Pain, Doctor Wagner junior, and The Babe Face I. The segunda was set to see los Espantos IV and V, who have now jumped to the UWA full-time from the EMLL, facing las Estrellas Blancas I y II. And the inicial at the arena matched el Gran Petroneo versus la Flecha from the "los Arqueros del Espacio" tag team. I use the word "scheduled" in this paragraph to remind everyone that with all the jumping back and forth between federations, who knows who will be at this taping. Actually, of all the wrestlers listed on this card, the only one that many feel will be jumping is Doctor Wagner junior.

Among the other cards this past weekend is the traditional Thursday night UWA card at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City. The main event there was set to have the UWA Word Trios champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte in a non-title match against las Panteras Rosas. The semifinal had Canek and Doctor Wagner junior booked to square off against el Villano III and Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada. The segunda of the four-match card featured all four Tortugillos Karatekas (Donatelo, Leonardo, Miguel Angel, and Rafael) versus los Espantos IV and V and Casandro and Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna from la Ola Lila. The inicial was set to feature Canek's two wrestling brothers, el Principe Maya and el Danes, in a parejas bout versus Takeda and Korak.

Also on Thursday, June 25th, the UWA ran its usual Thursday night card at la Arena Toluca in Toluca, the capital city of the state of Mexico. The main event had a non-title bout between los Efectivos and The Can-Am Express I y II. The semifinal had the young Aero Flash and el Celestial versus Ricky Boy (who has often been rumored to have jumped to the AAA but apparently hasn't yet) and el Hijo de Diablo. The segunda featured el Ninja Sasuke and Lasser versus Zeus (ex-Rey Richard) and el Mohicano II. El Mohicano I is still out of action with a broken leg or arm. The inicial had el Viento Negro set to face Julio Cesar (the wrestler, not the Roman emperor; the emperor is dead).

The UWA on June 27th also booked its traditional Saturday night card at la Arena Isabel in Cuernavaca, Morelos. The main event, as per usual, was all that was listed in the newspapers. It had el Texano, Silver King, and el Villano III to face Canek and The Can-Am Express I y II.

The same June 27th saw another Saturday night UWA card at la Arena Tejupilco in the city of the same name in the state of Mexico. The main event had Enrique Vera and el Coloso facing el Scorpio I and The Babe Face I.

In UWA news that is not directly card-related or result-related:

- * **Super Luchas** reports that UWA wrestler la Sombra Negra is booked in August at lucha cards in Chicago and Milwaukee. This is the first I have heard of that and I will be checking it out further.
- * Miguelito Perez returned to Puerto Rico after working a card 6/14; it was reported that he had injured his *cintura* (literally crown, or top of his head).
- * A new wrestler set to debut soon for the UWA, all the way from Tabasco, is "el Guerrero Mixteco." There is also a new "Frankenstein," managed by a "Profesor Satan," on the horizon.
- * Another wrestling priest, a la Fray Tormenta, has joined the UWA. "El Sacristan" is his ring name.
- * Three Puebla-area independent wrestlers died tragically on June 14th, 1992, when their car ran off the road as they returned home after a card. Their ring names were "el Rey Pantera," "el Cameleon," and "Aristocrata." Q. E. P. D.

AAA

Time to go to Mexico's newest promotion. Like last week, this is the last thing I type (before the "late news") and I don't mean to give these guys short shrift. I figure most everyone who subscribes has seen the last two weeks of Galavision television shows. The show that aired Sunday, June 21st, was a super show with a hot crowd. The show that aired this past Sunday, June 28th, was not up to the level of the first one, and the crowd was not nearly so hot. There is a reason for the latter. This is the first television taping that the AAA has done in a city (in this case, Puebla, Puebla) where the fans see the EMLL stars and the UWA stars on a weekly basis. To the Puebla fans, the opening card guys meant nothing, because they see better every week. To the fans in the cities where the first five shows were taped, they were seeing big-name stars for maybe the first time all year and were white hot from the start.

As far as the show of the 28th went, let me run down the results briefly with some commentary. The television opener saw captain Winners, Super Calo, and Super Kiss defeat Doctor Maldad, Mister Maldad, and captain Karis la Momia two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:07. I gave it ** 1/2. I love Winners, but to be honest he is more spectacuar than he is well-rounded. Of the winning team in the first match, I think Super Kiss is the best wrestler

technically in most every way. I thought that the rudo trio was better than the last time I had seen them, particularly Mister Maldad, who actually looked fine. The biggest pop of the whole match was when the Mummy got his hair yanked off, leaving him "bald," so to speak. It was sad to see that the crowd did not respond at all to Winners, the local boy (legit from Puebla) who made good in the big time. Winners did a suicidal *quebrada*, the Masao Orihara moonsault bodybuck from the second rope corner turnbuckle outside the ring; Doctor Alfonso Morales called it a *mortal a tras*. Whatever you call it, Winners barely hit the move solid, and it looked to me like Winners suffered more from the move than his opponent. Actually the best thing in the match was the end, even though referee Pepe Casas counted a pinfall on captain Karis la Momia when the finish was supposed to be a triple count out of the ring.

2) Super Star, Katana, and el Galactico defeated el Tornado, el Maligno, and The Ice Killer two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 18:05 when Casas disqualified the rudos for constantly pounding on the tecnicos but never going for the win. The most heat here was for a "faggot" chant at the heels. I thought this was only a fair match. Once again I was highly unimpressed with Katana; in fact, though I like el Galactico a bit, the only one I thought was real good was Super Star. **

3) Los Nuevos Destructores del Ring (Tony Arce, Rocco Valente, and el Vulcano) defeated Kendo Star, el Solar I, and el Angel Azteca two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 13:56. I thought this was the best match on the show for the second straight week (last week they had a draw); but I thought this week's match was a notch below last week's. I gave it ***. The Destructores are really underrated and a great trio team, but they tried to do too much and too complex Three-Stooges running-into-each-other stuff during this match to suit my taste. Kendo Star is OK, but Azteca and Solar are really excellent. I gave this ***.

4) The main event saw both teams counted out of the ring in the third fall for a draw at the 16:34 mark. The rudo team was The Blue Panther, la Parca, and captain Fishman. The tecnico team was el Hijo de Santo, Octagon, and captain Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo. After the match, after Perro had bled and Fishman had had so much of his mask pulled off that now everyone knows how bald he is, Aguayo and Fishman challenged each other to a mask versus hair match the next week. That isn't what we got, but it was close. I gave this one ** 1/2. If everybody only realized just how good Octagon is to do the stuff he does in the ring as well as he does it...

Now let's look at the next week's television show, the one that will air on July 5th on Galavision. In honor of July 4th, all the graphics were American stars and stripes. The show was only ninety minutes long, chopped off for local reasons in Mexico City. The two matches that did not air were Los Matematicos III and IV versus Doctor Maldad and Mister Maldad in the inicial and Jerrito Estrada, el Piratita Morgan, and el Picudito versus la Mascarita Sagrada, Octagoncito, and la Aguilita Solitaria in the segunda. The card was taped Tuesday, June 23, 1992, at la Arena Coliseo de Monterrey in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon; originally it had been booked for Friday the 26th but had to be changed due to a prior booking. GO TO THE NEXT PARAGRAPH IF YOU WANT TO BE SURPRISED AND NOT KNOW WHO WINS. The tercera saw Winners, Super Calo, and el Galactico defeat the "earthquake trio" of Maremoto, Hectatombe, and Terremoto two falls to one. El Galactico was stretchered during the second fall and replaced by el Maligno, who was a rudo last week but a tecnico this week. El Maligno got the victory for his team in the third fall by doing *la quebrada* onto Hectatombe. The semifinal saw Cien Caras, Universo Dos Mil, and The Blue Panther win two out of three falls from el Hijo del Santo, Super Muneco, and el Fantasma. The finish saw el Hijo del Santo pull off The Blue Panther's mask, and then immediately thereafter The Blue Panther fouled Santito, but heel referee el Suspenders (real ring name el Tirantes) awarded the bout to the rudos anyway. The main event saw a regular singles match (no other stipulations) between Fishman and Aguayo. Aguayo won when out of nowhere in the third fall Cien Caras ran in and started pounding away on Aguayo and even heel ref el Suspenders has to disqualify Fishman. This was said to be a long match with a cheap finish. David Scherer, who saw it already, gave it ** 1/2.

LATE NEWS: At the UWA show held June 28th at el Toreo, the main event saw THE CAN-AM EXPRESS defeat LOS EFECTIVOS two falls to one TO WIN THE UWA WORLD PAREJAS TITLES. Lason pinned Silver King in the third fall cleanly with a flying cross-body block. The semifinal saw Canek, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) defeat Dos Caras, el Villano III, and The Black Scorpio two falls to one when Canek pinned Dos Caras clean in the third fall. The tercera saw Haraoki "el Gran" Hamada, Enrique Vera, and el Villano V defeat Bull Pain, el Engendro, and Shu, el Guerrero in three falls. The segunda saw Tamba come out of retirement for one match, replacing el Villano IV, who no-showed. Tamba teamed with el Villano I and Fray Tormenta to defeat el Rostro Infernal, making his debut, and los Scorpions senior and junior in three falls. And the inicial saw Laser, el Ninja Sasuke, and el Gran Apache I defeat Zeus, Ricky Boy, and el Hijo del Diablo in three falls. At the EMLL show at la Arena Mexico on June 28th, the trio of Atlantis, el Dandy, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon defeated los Intocables in a non-title main event in two straight falls. Maybe next week will be the trios title match. The semifinal saw The Love Machine win via DQ in the 3rd fall over la Fiera. The tercera saw las Cavernicolas I, II, and III defeated los Juniors (Blue Demon, Tinieblas, and Solitario juniors) when Soli turned on his partners in the third fall. Garga el Sultan, Septiembre Negro junior, and Enjambre beat el Metalico, el Guerrero Samurai II, and Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla in the segunda in three falls. And the inicial saw Ivan Joe and el Gran Apache I defeat Lynx and el Archangel de la Muerte in three falls. Also, Octagon defeated Fuerza Guerrera on the 6/27 AAA show at la Arena Apatico to retain the Mexican National Middleweight Title; the semi saw el Ciclón Azul win the hair of el Cubano. **AD: DAVE SCHERER (P.O. BOX 612/MARMORA, NJ, 08223) HAS RECENT 6-HOUR UWA & EMLL TAPES: \$16.00 PER TAPE!**

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: CANEK

If you asked an American fan of lucha libre who the biggest star in the Mexico City lucha libre scene is today, many might guess Octagon, Atlantis, el Hijo del Santo, or Mil Mascaras. Not living there myself, I don't know for sure, but were I to guess, my first guess would be Canek. Canek was born in the Gulf of Mexico port city of Frontera, Tabasco, on June 19, 1954 (a date I have verified from two sources). Shortly after his birth, his family moved from Frontera to the larger Tabasco city of Villahermosa, where Canek was raised and for family purposes refers to still today as his family home. Canek was said to be a large child by Mexican standards and a large adolescent as well. He gravitated to bodybuilding, and apparently won some regional titles in Tabasco during his late teens and early twenties. Like many Mexican bodybuilders in the 1960s and 1970s, Canek gave a stab at lucha libre, and proved successful enough that he relocated to the capital city of Mexico City in the early 1970s. There, he trained at the gym of Felipe Ham Lee, who later would become the principal trainer for los Brazos. Lee, more so than most Mexican maestros, seems to impart the charismatics, timing, and theatrical side of his accumulated experience to his trainees. Canek debuted as a light heavyweight officially in March 1973 in the Mexico City suburbs. After the UWA/EMLL split in early 1975, Canek was slowly groomed by Rey Mendoza, Anibal, and others, as a future star. The UWA arbitrarily announced that it was declaring Lou Thesz as its initial World Heavyweight Champion due to his 35-plus-year-legendary record. In reality, they had found someone who would put over a top local star and still lend prestige to the new title. On August 27, 1978, at the 20,000-plus seat "el Palacio de los Deportes" arena in Mexico City, Canek defeated Lou Thesz in three falls in the first-ever UWA World Heavyweight Title change. Canek would turn out to hold on the title, much like Ric Flair and the American NWA World Heavyweight Title, off and on for the next fourteen years. Canek has become an 11-time champion. He has won and lost the belt to such men as el Scorpio I, Dos Caras (twice), Enrique Vera, Tiger Jeet Singh, Riki Choshu, Tatsumi Fujinami, and Big Van Vader. Canek has also wrestled a few tours of the United States (mostly in the Northeast at arenas like Madison Square Garden) and has made 13 tours of Japan, more than any other Mexican wrestler except Mil Mascaras and Dos Caras (though Rendo will pass Canek in that regards soon). Beyond the titles and the tours, though, remains the position on the card. Canek has headlined every important UWA card and feud, with minor exceptions for smaller weight titles, for all of the last fourteen-plus years, all with the same basic script of being the rudo who turns babyface to run out the evil foreigner. The best example of this script occurred in January/February 1984, when Andree el Gigante toured Mexico and this was back when he could do some things in the ring. Canek built up a huge feud and in what is remembered still today as the most memorable match in Mexico City history, Canek pinned Andre after a power body slam on Sunday, February 12, 1984, in front of over 25,000 fans at the "el Toreo de Cutaro Caminos" bull ring in suburban Naucalpan. Even though Canek is a big star today, 1983-1984 was his heyday, as wrestlers such as Hulk Hogan, Stan Hansen, Andre el Gigante, Choshu, Fujinami, and Singh came in from literally around the world to try to wrest the UWA World Title from Canek. I have had the pleasure of seeing Canek live three times and meeting him once. He is shorter than his stated biographical claim of 183 cm (6'1"); I peg him at about 5'10". His weight, listed at 108 kg or 230 pounds, is about right; that is large by Mexican standards. Though I am tired of his booking scenarios, I must admit that Canek's work rate and ring knowledge is excellent, and due to his size and name value, he would be the first wrestler that I would take (even ahead of los Brazos) if I could pick one to start a promotion with. Of all the luchadores in recent history, he is easily the most over for never having been in a movie. P. S., Dave Meltzer has reported his real name as "S. Estrada," and I have no more information on this subject than that.

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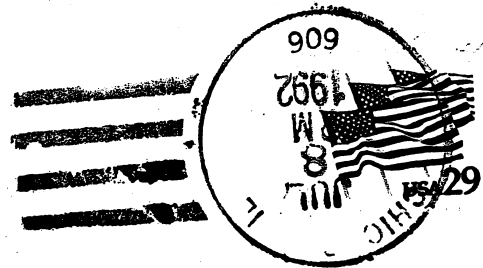
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